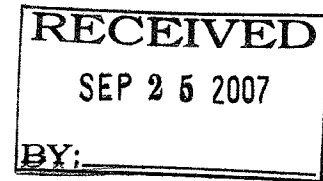


September 22, 2007

California High Speed Rail Authority
EIR/EIS Comments
925 L Street
Suite 1425
Sacramento, California 95814



Dear California High Speed Rail Authority,

As a resident of Riverbank in Stanislaus County I am appalled at the lack of communication with the residents in this valley area. Other than one meeting in Modesto a few years ago, there have been no public hearings or published notices regarding this project. There were seven public hearings scheduled for this EIR, only one was in the valley and that was in Merced County.

I024-1

Your letter of August 8, 2007 indicates no staff or consultants have contacted the City of Riverbank or any other city on the BNSF railway in Stanislaus County. It appears however you did contact cities on the Union Pacific railway.

The EIR shows two routes through the valley. Both would cause problems. The BNSF goes **directly through** many small communities. Riverbank is one of these. The BNSF already has many freight trains and AMTRAK. They go run day and night. The high-speed railway tracks should not be placed here. This would destroy neighborhoods, as some are close to the tracks. It would increase the already existing train noise. The Union Pacific tracks are close to the larger cities, they would have the same problems. The tracks are not through the middle of the cities. The majority of the riders would be in these cities.

I024-2

The valley is heavily agriculture and this project will destroy a lot of farmland. **This is where you food comes from!** How much agricultural land will be lost and how will you compensate for it?

I024-3

If I had not been on a mailing list I would not have know about this project. Why is there such a lack of communication with the valley? Why weren't the people in Stanislaus County asked what they want or don't want? We never got to vote on this. You do not seem to car as the lack of public hearings or notifications indicate.

I024-4

The EIR is supposed to be for the valley; however, I didn't find any studies regarding Stanislaus County, Riverbank, or the other valley areas. Please provide me with the EIR for Stanislaus County and the City of Riverbank, as I could not find it in this EIR. If there is none, why haven't there been any impact studies done specific to this area?

I024-5

Your lack of any public hearings and communication with this area is unacceptable and unfair. Please respond to these questions and comments.

I024-6

Thank you,

Mrs. Evelyn Halbert